



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT0414ND	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/005548	International filing date (day/month/year) 19.04.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 21.04.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC		
Applicant NITTO DENKO CORPORATION		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a. ☒ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 2 sheets, as follows:

☒ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International application No.

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Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-26 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. 3-8, 13 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15 received by this Authority on 28.10.2004
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ the drawings:
- sheets _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☒ the claims, nos. 2, 10 _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1, 3-9, 11-15	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1, 3-9, 11-15	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1, 3-9, 11-15	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: JP 2002-258042 A (Nitto Denko Corporation),
11 September 2002

The inventions set forth in claims 1, 3 to 9 and 11 to 15 lack novelty and do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 cited in the international search report. The method for producing a polarizing plate set forth in document 1 (paragraphs [0024] to [0029]) includes the production method set forth in this application, and the polarizing plates produced as a result are no different from the polarizing plates set forth in this application.

Moreover, the polarizing plate set forth in document 1 also has a high dichroic ratio at a wavelength of 440nm, and has high single transmittance and polarization degree (see claim 1 in particular), and it would be easy for a person skilled in the art to optimize the values existing at each of the aforementioned locations in document 1 in order to achieve the natural aim of obtaining better characteristics, to constitute the production method set forth in this application.

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Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Polarizing plates other than specific polarized plates producing using the specific production method set forth in the description are included in the technical scope of claims 1 and 12 to 15, but a person skilled in the art would not generally be capable of envisioning specifically what type of polarizing plates exist other than said specific polarizing plates, therefore these claims are unclear.

The correspondence between the numerical values in the production method set forth in claim 3 and the numerical values stated in the embodiments is unclear. In embodiment 9, for example, the concentration of potassium iodide in a drawing bath is 2%, but it is unclear whether this satisfies the feature set forth in claim 3, wherein uniaxial stretching is carried out in a boric acid aqueous solution containing at least 4wt.% of an iodide.